State of Illinois
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Mary A. Gade, Director

2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, IL 62794-9276

November 10, 1995

Ms. Sonia Vega
Site Assessment Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region V
77 West Jackson HSE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Ms. Vega,

It is recommended that the Prairieland Steel site (ILD #005229497), located in Mason County, Illinois be considered for the assignment of a USEPA On-Scene Coordinator and possible removal action.

Recent information pertaining to the site indicates approximately 50 drums of various contents. The drums recently have been described to be in deteriorating condition. Due to the PRP's unwillingness to enter into the states voluntary cleanup program, possible USEPA removal action may be necessary.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would forward this request and attached information to Donald Bruce. If you have any questions regarding this request please feel free to contact me at 217/524-1663.

Sincerely,

Bruce Everetts
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Land
Site Assessment Unit

PRAIRIELAND STEEL

Site Description:
Prairieland Steel (PLS) is located south of U.S. Highway 136 between Water and Schrader Streets in an industrialized/commercialized area of the city of Havana. The address for PLS is 550 South Pear Street. The legal description is within the south ½ of Section 1, Township 21 north, Range 9 west of the Third Principle Meridian in Mason County. The triangularly shaped site encompasses about 2 acres upon which are approximately 25,000 square feet of building space. The facility is bordered by the Chicago and Illinois Midland RR and Illinois Route 78 on the northwest, Walker Forge, Inc. to the east, and Crescent Forge and Shovel to the south. A gravel alley separates the facilities east and south. PLS geology consists of sand and gravel deposits underlying Mason County which constitute one of the largest aquifer systems in Illinois. This area is a wide bedrock lowland that was formed at the confluence of the ancient Mississippi and Mohomet Rivers and is now buried beneath a thick mantle of glacial outwash and gravel. Near Havana, the deposits range in thickness from about 100 to 500 feet. Pennsylvanian and Mississippian age rocks underlie the glacial deposits and are not generally developed as a source for groundwater. Three shallow drift wells (78 - 96 feet deep) supply Havana's 3610 people with water, the nearest well being 3500 feet east-northeast of the facility. There are also 10 noncommunity wells in Havana which may also be threatened by this facility. Several of the on-site drains may have direct discharges to the Illinois River located 3 ½ blocks west of the facility. Although sections of the facility are fenced, security is not maintained and there is a possibility for exposure to the hazardous wastes and potentially contaminated soils at PLS. Lead contaminated dust and waste soap exists throughout the facility and it has been alleged that hazardous wastes have been piled up outside the facility. The buildings and surrounding grounds are in poor condition.

History:
Sanborn maps indicated the site operated as the Havana Press Drill Works from sometime prior to 1887 until the late 1800's. Before the turn of the century, the site had become Havana Metal Wheel which lasted until 1948. After 1948, the site was divided and Prairie Steel started on the west side of Pear Street (now a gravel alley) until about 1959. John Dupuy took over operations in 1985 thus forming PLS.

Magnitude of Contaminate Source:
The approximately 50 drums are in various stages of deterioration. Most of the drums are located in the south end of the building, however, due to the dilapidated building condition (large holes in the roof) these drums could be easily exposed to the outside elements.

Prior Agency Involvement:
In 1980 Prairie Steel filed a 103© notice as a generator of hazardous waste and a Part A Permit as a storage facility of K063 (de-listed wastewater @8,600,000 pounds/year). The Agency inspected the facility twice in 1981 and determined it to be a small quantity generator. However, 1990 inspections determined the site to be a large quantity generator operating as an illegal hazardous waste storage facility. These inspections were prompted by complaints alleging that wastes were dumped down drains. Samples collected of drums and tanks indicated 1,1,1-TCE, 1,1-DCE, 1,2-DCA, cis-1,2-DCE, TCE, styrene, methylene chloride, MIBK, PCE, xylenes, hazardous for corrositivity, and TCLP hazardous for Pb and Cr.